celebration directly from Saudi Arabia at the time of Haj during the first week of August, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): There is no such proposal with All India Radio and Doordarshan to broadcast/telecast Haj celebrations directly from Saudi Arabia. However, Doordarshan would make efforts to record the satellite feed available from Saudi Arabian Television and telecast the programme based on the feed as in the past.

Dead Accounts in Nationalised Banks

220. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of dead accounts in the nationalised banks of the country during the last three years;

(b) what is the total amount of deposits of these accounts during the same period; and

(c) the manner in which such money has been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the total number of unclaimed deposits accounts, as defined in section 26 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, in the nationalised banks and total amount in these accounts as at the end of last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

As on	No. of Accounts	Amount
31-12-1983	22,69,235	1924·83
31-12-1984	26,57,086	2225·15
31-12-1985	31,55,270	2708·07

(c) These unclaimed deposits form part of a bank's overall funds and is not invested separately.

Half-Yearly Interest to Bank Account

221. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the guidelines of the R.B.I. interest has to be added to the accounts of account holders of banks every six months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these guidelines or directives of the R.B.I. are not being followed by the State Bank of India and its branches and that interest is added in these banks only once a year; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take against the violation of the directives of the R.B.I. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) According to directives of Reserve Bank of India all the Scheduled Commercial Banks are permitted to pay interest on savings and fixed deposit accounts at quaterly or longer rests. The interest on saving bank account is calculated on the minimum balance existing between 10th to the end month. The State Bank of India credits interest on savings interest once a year, as at the end of September, but the actual calculations are on a monthly basis so that the depositors do not suffer any loss.

(c) Does not arise.

Reduction in Prices After the Budget

222. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of any items of common consumption have gone down as a result of the reliefs

provided in the 1987-88 budget; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER of STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The Central Budget for 1987-88 has given reliefs through direct reduction in duty rates or through extension of MODVAT on a number of items of common consumption. The Government has impressed upon the manufacturers to pass on the benefits of tax concessions to the consumers. The Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies convened a meeting of representatives of trade and industry on 4-4-1987 to review the progress made in this regard. The representatives of trade and industry in the meeting agreed to take steps to reduce prices and also to publicise such reductions. It may, however, be borne in mind that the market prices are determined by a multiplicity of factors acting on supply and demand and not only on the changes in the rates of duty.

Clearance of Serials by Doordarshan

223. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of serials awaiting release by the Doordarshan;

(b) whether Government propose to restrict the number of episodes uniformally for every serial and also obtain the script of all the episodes before the clearance of the serial; and

(c) what is the number of episodes initially cleared for Buniyad and when is the serial stated to conclude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The exact number of serials awaiting release cannot be arrived at as this depends upon the approval of pilots which are being submitted from time to time.

(b) The Government has formed guidelines for sponsored programmes on Doordarshan with effect from July 18, 1986. According to the guidelines, ordinarily, the number of episodes to be approved for telecast for different categories of serials is as follows:—

(a) Soap Opera	.. 52
(b) Serials based on long novels	.. 26
(c) Other serials	.. 13
(d) Mini-serials	.. less than 13

Doordarshan, however, has the right to determine the number of episodes of a particular programme before communicating initial approval. Before giving concept approval to a sponsored serial, Dordarshan obtains the break-up of the story in episodes and broad line of treatment, complete synopsis of each episode and detailed scenario script of atleast one episode. Before the programme is telecast, Doordarshan obtains atleast 4 episodes in advance at a time and previews them.

(c) The serial 'Buniyaad' was initially cleared for 104 episodes. The serial is expected to conclude on 26-5-87.

Credit deposit ratio of banks in Gujarat

224. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the credit deposit ratio of the Commercial banks in Gujarat is lower than the all India CDR;

(b) what is the CDR of the Commercial Banks, statewise, and what steps are being proposed to improve CDR in the states where it is lower than the all India ratio; and